

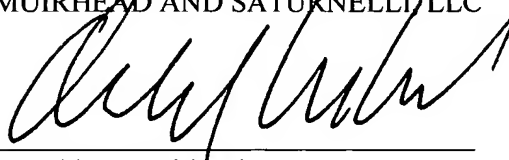
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, references **BA** and **BB** submitted herewith are discussed in the specification for this application. References **BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI** and **BJ** submitted herewith were cited by the International Search Authority (ISA/EP) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty in the International Search Report of March 15, 2005 (copy enclosed) for the corresponding PCT application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the space adjacent to each document on the PTO-1449 form and return a copy of the PTO-1449 form to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

Although we believe that we have appropriately provided for any fees due in connection with this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies to/from our **Deposit Account No. 503596**. Two originally-executed copies of this form are being submitted.

Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (508) 898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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Substitute for Form 1449/PTO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/563,180
Filing Date	December 30, 2005
First Named Inventor	Junji SHIBATA
Art Unit	To be assigned
Examiner Name	To be assigned
Attorney Docket No.	VPM-00301

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS *	ATTY. CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE/PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF APPLICANT OF CITED DOCUMENT	CLASS	SUB- CLASS
	AA	6,608,996 B1	08-19-2003	Laurikka et al.		
	AB	5,877,695	03-02-1999	Kubes et al		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS *	ATTY. CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	BA	2003-143280	05-16-2003	Japan	X	
	BB	2003-061139	02-28-2003	Japan	X	
	BC	2001-086213	03-30-2001	Japan	X	
	BD	1 079 584 A2	02-26-2004	EPO		
	BE	2001-237934	08-31-2001	Japan	X	
	BF	2004-064612	02-26-2004	Japan	X	
	BG	06-069992	03-11-1994	Japan	X	
	BH	0 564 127 A2	03-18-1993	EPO		
	BI	2001-519591	10-23-2001	Japan	X	
	BJ	WO 99/18705	04-15-1999	PCT		

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS *	ATTY. CITE NO.	INCLUDE AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, VOL/ISSUE NO., COUNTRY OF PUBLICATION, PAGES, ETC.

EXAMINER SIGNATURE:

DATE CONSIDERED:

*EXAMINER: Initial if referenced considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.